

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method and apparatus for aligning and fixing vertebral bodies is provided. The vertebral alignment system of the current invention comprises an integrated system of alignment rods, cannulated pedicle screws, filler plugs and fixation hardware. The components are designed such that a surgeon can accurately manipulate and align vertebral bodies using the removable alignment rods attached to the cannulated pedicle screws and to enable the installation of fixation system hardware while the alignment rods are still in place. A system and method for aligning vertebral bodies using the vertebral alignment system of the invention is also provided.

JWP/jwp

DAA PAS388239.1-\* -12/27/01 8:55 AM

100366-1274  
FBI - SEATTLE